

REMARKS

Claims 3-7, 9 and 10 remain pending in the application. By this amendment, Claims 1 and 2 are cancelled and Claims 3 and 7 are amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,729,970. Claims 4 and 7-10 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,729,970 in view of 11-192328. To expedite prosecution, Applicant submits a terminal disclaimer herewith to overcome these rejections.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murtland in view of Iwanaga. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, claims 1 and 2 are cancelled.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

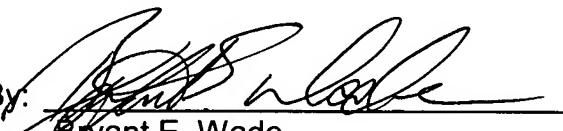
Claims 5-7 and 9-10 are allowed.

The Examiner states that claims 3-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant amends claim 3 to include the limitations of claim 1 and intervening claim 2. Therefore, claims 3-4 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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